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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,104	08/01/2001	Yasushi Fujinami	450100-03401	4849
20999	7590	12/01/2005	EXAMINER	
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG			SHIBRU, HELEN	
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.			ART UNIT	
NEW YORK, NY 10151			PAPER NUMBER	
			2616	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/920,104

Applicant(s)

FUJINAMI, YASUSHI

Examiner

HELEN SHIBRU

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2001.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/03/2004.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Drawings

1. Figures 1-3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 14-16, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lownes (EP 0 993 185 A2).

Regarding claim 1, Lownes discloses an image processing apparatus comprising:

a playback section for playing back image data (see page 5 lines 19-21, page 6 lines 35-36 and fig. 2, VCR, TV);

a transmission section for transmitting the played back image data to a reception apparatus through a predetermined transmission line (see page 3 lines 23-30, page 4 lines 3-20 and 49-51 and page 7 lines 3-11); and

a control section for controlling, when an instruction to temporarily stop the playback of the image data is received, said playback section and said

transmission section to stop the playback and the transmission of the image data (see fig. 5 and page 12-22, status: stop pause, record, etc.), respectively, and further controlling said transmission section to transmit a message representing that the playback of the image data is temporarily stopped to said reception apparatus through said transmission line (see abstract, page 7 lines 45-51 and figures 2, 4, and 6).

Regarding claim 2, Lownes discloses when an instruction to cancel the temporary stop is received, said control section controls said playback section and said transmission section to resume the playback and the transmission of the image data, respectively, and further controls said transmission section to transmit a message representing that the playback of the image data is resumed to said reception apparatus through said transmission line (see page 6 lines 3-8, page 7 lines 12-44 and line 51-page 8 line 5).

Regarding claim 4, Lownes discloses transmission lines compiles with the IEEE 1394 standard (see page 4 lines 4-20).

Regarding claim 5, the limitations of claim 5 can be found in claims 1 and 2 above. Therefore claim 5 is analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 1 and 2 above.

Regarding claim 14, Lownes discloses an image processing apparatus, comprising:

a playback section for playing back image data(see page 5 lines 19-21, page 6 lines 35-36 and fig. 2, VCR, TV);

a transmission section for transmitting the played back image data to a reception apparatus through a predetermined network(see page 3 lines 23-30, page 4 lines 3-20 and 49-51 and page 7 lines 3-11, tuner, transport stream); and

a control section for controlling, when a message representing that an instruction to temporarily stop the playback of the image data is issued is received through said network, said transmission section to stop the transmission of the image data (see fig. 5 and page 12-22, status: stop pause, record, etc., see abstract, page 7 lines 45-51 and figures 2, 4, and 6).

Regarding claim 15, Lownes discloses when a message representing that an instruction to cancel the temporary stop is received through said network, said control section controls said transmission section to resume the transmission of the image data (see page 4 lines 13-20, page 6 lines 3-8, page 7 lines 12-44 and line 51-page 8 line 5).

Regarding claim 16, Lownes discloses wherein said network complies with the IEEE 1394 standard (see page 4 lines 3-20).

Method claim 18 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in apparatus claim 14 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary

skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 3 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lownes in view of Sugiyama (US Pat. No. 5,815,631).

Regarding claim 3, claim 3 differ from Lownes in that the claim further require transmission section transmits the image data also to an additional reception apparatus or apparatuses through said transmission line. Although Lownes fails to disclose an additional reception apparatus or apparatuses, Lownes discloses a multiplexer for selecting received information from a digital VHS video cassette recorder (DVHS VCR) (see page 4 lines 3-7). Lownes further discloses the status information is transferred between the digital VCR and the CPU via asynchronous data transfer mode (see page 4 lines 7-12).

In the same field of endeavor Sugiyama discloses the image data is transmitted to an additional reception apparatus or apparatuses (see col. 3 line 35-col. 4 line 28, fig. 1, and fig. 2 VTR 2, 3, 4, and 5). Sugiyama further teaches the TV and the VTRs include input and output selector to receive an input signal from and to supply an output signal to other devices (see col. 3 lines 31-33, 44-47, 54-62 and col. 4 lines 6-11 and line 20-23). In light of the teaching in Sugiyama, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Lownes by providing an auxiliary reproduction signal input unit in order to control a number of AV devices.

Claim 17 is rejected for the same reason as discusses in claim 3 above.

6. Claims 7-10, 11, 13, 20-24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lownes in view of Gerszberg (US Pat. No. 6,020,916).

Regarding claim 7, Lownes discloses an image processing apparatus, comprising:

a reception section for receiving image data transmitted thereto from a transmission apparatus through a predetermined transmission line (see page 3 lines 23-30, page 4 lines 3-12, and page 7 lines 3-11, VCR, STB, TV);

a storage section having a storage capacity at least for one screen for storing the image data received by, said reception section (see page 4 lines 7-12, page 6 lines 51-54 and fig. 3B and 3C, buffer); and

a control section for controlling a display apparatus to display the image data received by said reception section and controlling (see page 7 lines 12-51 and fig. 6). Claim 7 differs from Lownes in that the claim further requires when a message representing that playback of the image data is temporarily stopped is received through said transmission line, said display apparatus to repetitively display the image data stored said storage section.

In the same field of endeavor Gerszberg discloses a video teleconferencing with a plurality of parties. Gerszberg teaches when a particular video is muted, a repeated loop of the last few moments of the video displayed (see col. 8 lines 40-59). Therefore in light of the teaching in Gerszberg it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Lownes by providing a repetitive display on the screen in order to show the outgoing video to the other parties.

Regarding claim 8, Lownes discloses when a message representing that the playback of the image data is resumed is received through said transmission line, said control section controls said display section to display the image data received thereafter by said reception section (see page 7 line 45-page 8 line 5).

Regarding claim 9, Lownes discloses storage section has a storage capacity for one screen (page 4 lines 7-12, page 6 lines 51-54, and fig. 3B and 3C buffer).

Regarding claim 10, Lownes discloses transmission line complies with the IEEE 1394 standard (see page 4 lines 4-12).

Regarding claim 11, the limitations of claim 11 can be found in claim 7 above. Therefore claim 11 is analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 7.

Regarding claim 13, the limitations of claim 13 can be found in claims 1 and 7. Therefore claim 13 is analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 1 and 7 above.

Regarding claims 20 and 24, the limitations of claims 20 and 24 can be found in claims 2, 7, and 14 above. Therefore claims 20 and 24 are analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 2, 7, and 14.

Claim 21 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 2 and 8 above.

Claim 22 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 9 above.

Claim 23 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 16 above.

Regarding claim 26, the limitations of claim 26 can be found in claim 1, 7, 14, and 20. Therefore claim 26 is analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 1, 7, 14, and 20 above.

7. Claims 6, 12, 19 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lownes.

Regarding claims 6, 12, 19 and 25, the limitations in claims 6, 12, 19 and 25 can be found in the apparatus claim 1, 7, 14 and 20 respectively. However claims 6, 12, 19 and 25 further require a recording medium on which a program to be executed by a computer is recorded, and

causing a computer to execute steps as claimed in claim 1, 7, 14 and 20. Official notice is taken that it is well known in the art to embody inventions in software to be executed by a computer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Lownes by having a record medium capable of being read by a computer tangibly embodying a program causing the computer to execute the steps of the apparatus claim. The motivation for having a recordable by a computer is that such a method can be easily enhanced and executed multiple times.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HELEN SHIBRU whose telephone number is (571) 272-7329. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAMES J. GROODY can be reached on (571) 272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Helen Shibru

Application/Control Number: 09/920,104
Art Unit: 2616

Page 9

November 22, 2005


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Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 262 2616